

# LEENA KSAIFI

## EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES  
London, England  
2011-2012

### **M.Sc. Political Economy of Violence, Conflict, and Development**

- Awarded a full paid Chevening Scholarship
- Dissertation: How Neoliberalism and Employer's Attitudes and Perceptions Reinforce each other in Migrant Domestic Worker Abuse in Lebanon
- To be awarded a merit diploma in July 2013

### CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Montreal, Canada 2003-2008


### **B.A. Specialization in Psychology**

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**PROJECT COORDINATOR**, YALLA - Young Active Lebanese Leaders  
Towards Citizenship NGO - Beirut, Lebanon  
June 2010 - May 2011

Project Description: This project's mission, sponsored by Catholic Relief Services, was to raise youth awareness on civic rights and responsibilities towards municipal elections in order to empower youth to become more engaged in the electoral process.

My Responsibilities:

- Managed and coordinated a group of 45 adolescent volunteers from 5 different districts in Lebanon;
- Produced a survey and distributed it throughout Lebanon to 1,400 Lebanese youth to investigate their attitudes towards civic responsibilities and voting behavior;
- Designed and launched a creative media campaign which included an Arabic rap song and a short animation via radio, TV, youtube, and billboards;
  -  Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International Interview on: Al Muwatiniya-YALLA project- LBCI
  - Yalla Youtube Animation: Yalla Animation.mp4
- Organized 2 workshops on civic responsibilities and voting rights and invited the press and municipal leaders to a conference on the survey's results and solutions;
- Produced monthly and final reports for my organization and donor organization and assisted in budgeting.

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**PROJECT COORDINATOR, Yes For Dialogue**  
Towards Citizenship NGO - Beirut, Lebanon  
December 2009 - May 2010

Project Description: This project was sponsored by *Comite Catholique Contre la Faim et pour le Development* to promote a series of dialogue sessions to discuss a kaleidoscope of topics on Lebanon and the region in order to break down barriers and promote tolerance and acceptance.

My Responsibilities:

- Managed a group of 13 volunteers from different districts in Lebanon and found creative ways to maintain their enthusiasm, like turning the office into cooking stations where the volunteers learned about their next task while building rapport with one another;
- Held weekly meetings to assist volunteers in brainstorming thought-provoking topics. Examples:
  - Do you think domestic workers should be entitled to a day off? A discussion with ‘Madams & Sirs,’ employment agencies, and the lawyer and Human Rights Watch Deputy Director of the MENA region, Dr. Nadim Houry.
  - Limited Citizenship: Its an issue of what? A discussion with the project manager of the UNDP report on ‘Lebanese Women’s Rights and the Nationality Law’ and personal testimonies.
- Helped organized a membership and volunteer appreciation social event by budgeting it and finding sponsors, a venue, inviting members and volunteers, and making a short video presentation of the organization’s previous and upcoming projects.

**PSYCHOLOGIST ASSISTANT**

Irshad Center - Amman, Jordan  
November 2008 - June 2009

- Interviewed and counseled children and teenagers with psychological disorders and/or learning disabilities and counseled parents coping with their child’s diagnosis.
- Conducted a workshop for Child Helpline International Amsterdam, to train 12 of their employees on trauma, adolescence, counseling and stress;
- Directed and developed a creative project for Montessori school (grades 7-11) on the importance of safe driving which required the students to research their topics, conduct a survey, launch a media campaign, and create a large mural that was displayed;

**APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYST THERAPIST**  
Service d'adaptation et d'intégration - Montreal, Canada  
January 2008 - October 2008

- Worked 1:1 with autistic children to help develop their social and cognitive skills and worked alongside a supervisor to adjust and update their workbooks.

**VOLUNTEERING**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE VOLUNTEER**

SOAS University - London, England  
October 2011 - September 2012

- I was elected to be the student representative for my program which entailed me to represent over 100 students and organize social gatherings;
- Conducted an online survey to investigate students' opinions and concerns and attended department faculty meetings to address these findings and find viable solutions for my peers.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER**

Institute of Development, Research, Advocacy, and Applied Care  
Beirut, Lebanon  
October 2009 - December 2009

- Helped in researching, designing and writing an article to be published in February 2013, on the prevalence of childhood adversities in the Middle East.

**SKILLS**

MS Word, Excel, SPSS, Movie Maker, Web 2.0, Outlook, & Powerpoint

**ACTIVITIES**

Member of the Rotaract Club, Soccer, Theatre & Martial Arts

**LANGUAGES**

Fluent in English & Arabic

**REFERENCES**

Available Upon Request

*Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work - Aristotle*